Hot Projects

Center for Plant Health Science and Technology **For more details contact: GORDON GORDH**
Director's Office **Gordon.Gordh@aphis.usda.gov; (919) 855-7400**

ISO Certification: CPHST has committed to adhere to the requirements of the ISO 9001 and 17025 quality management system outlined by the International Organization of Standards because of its excellent attributes such as continuous improvement, independent auditing, and national and international recognition. When used properly, ISO standards promote excellence throughout all functions within the organization and provide foreign governments, APHIS employees, and external partners with confidence in the scientific solutions developed by CPHST. The PERAL laboratory received ISO 9001 certification in May 2005.

Peer Review of CPHST Scientists: The Safeguarding Review recommended that the performance of CPHST scientists be evaluated according to their accomplishments in providing solutions to identified PPQ needs at least every three years. CPHST has evaluated 46 scientists in the last 2 years and will evaluate 33 in FY06. Scientists prepare a case write-up that describes their scientific contributions to PPQ operational programs and to the greater scientific community. Included in the case are examples of their work and narratives describing how it meets the agency mission. The cases are reviewed by panels consisting of peer scientists and PPQ operational staff that are recipients of CPHST work.

CPHST Workbench: This work management tool assists in tracking projects from initial submission through completion. Workbench helps scientists report on the progress of their work, document accomplishments, and facilitates communication with CPHST management. To support emergency program activities, Workbench can be searched to identify scientists with the right skill set and determine their availability based on current work assignments.

Ad Hoc Projects: These projects involve work that requires less than 3 FTE months to complete and have immediate benefits to PPQ programs. The work should involve frequent discussions between the client and CPHST scientist. Ad Hoc Projects address issues where the science is mature and technology can be transferred to operational programs with little modification. Examples of Ad Hoc Projects include answering a specific question of limited scope, developing an operational protocol, and fine tuning off-the-shelf technology. Ad Hoc Projects involve in-house work only and are not intended to support projects beyond the expertise of CPHST scientists or scope-of-work undertaken within CPHST.

Regulatory Science Curriculum: This course is jointly sponsored by CPHST and the North Carolina State University Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the policies and issues surrounding safeguarding agriculture and natural resources. Topics include the legal basis for plant protection regulations; international trade policies and plant protection; risk and pathway analysis; and methods used to detect, identify, and eradicate pests of regulatory significance.